

- INTELLIGENCE BRIEF -

**FOLLOWUP: "CHEESE" (HEROIN ADULTERATED WITH
DIPHENHYDRAMINE
AND ACETAMINOPHEN) CONTINUING IN DALLAS, TEXAS**

In the May, 2006 issue of Microgram Bulletin, a Special Intelligence Brief reported on the phenomenon of "Cheese," a so-called "starter form" of heroin that is popular primarily among Hispanic youth in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). At that time, analyses of "Cheese" samples showed that it contained acetaminophen, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, and up to 8 percent heroin. It is now well established that "Cheese" is manufactured by mixing a small quantity of heroin (probably black tar heroin) with a large quantity of crushed Tylenol-PM® caplets (that is, an Over-the-Counter formulation of acetaminophen and diphenhydramine hydrochloride marketed as a sleep aid).

Over the past year, "Cheese" has gained additional notoriety, with approximately 2 dozen major articles published in the mainstream media concerning its use. The DEA South Central Laboratory (Dallas, Texas) has recently analyzed numerous samples of "Cheese" provided by the DISD Police, using FTIR, GC/FID, and GC/MS (see Photo 8).

The qualitative results for 15 such samples submitted to the laboratory in March 2007, are reported below.

Received	Analyzed	Results
3/19/2007	3/19/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/19/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/19/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/19/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/19/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/20/2007	6-Monoacetylmorphine, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/20/2007	6-Monoacetylmorphine, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/19/2007	3/20/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/21/2007	3/21/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/30/2007	4/2/2007	Heroin, Methamphetamine, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/30/2007	4/2/2007	Heroin, Diphenhydramine, Acetaminophen
3/30/2007	4/3/2007	Heroin
3/30/2007	4/3/2007	Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine
3/30/2007	4/3/2007	No Detectable Controlled Substances
3/30/2007	4/3/2007	Methamphetamine, Heroin, Acetaminophen, Diphenhydramine

Of the 15 samples, 9 appeared to meet the classic definition of "Cheese." One sample contained only heroin, two contained 6-monoacetylmorphine instead of heroin (probably resulting from the decomposition of heroin in the original "Cheese" sample), two appeared to be "Cheese" that also contained a small amount of methamphetamine, and one had no controlled substances. The average heroin quant for these samples (calculated as the hydrochloride) was 2.0 percent.